IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

CRIMINAL NO. 03-691

V.

: (C.A. NO. 05-1395)

EDWARD MARTIN

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Fullam, Sr. J. June 23, 2005

The defendant, Edward Martin, has filed a pro se motion for collateral relief from his criminal sentence, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The sole basis set forth in his motion is that he was denied the effective assistance of counsel because his lawyer did not appeal the sentence. In Mr. Martin's view, a direct appeal would have resulted in re-sentencing under Blakely v. Washington, 124 S. Ct. 2531 (2004) and its progeny.

For a host of reasons, the motion lacks merit. Mr. Martin was sentenced on June 8, 2004, pursuant to a guilty plea. As part of the plea agreement, Mr. Martin waived his right to appeal or collaterally attack his sentence. Even if that waiver is not enforced (and, under the circumstances of this case, the waiver is indeed enforceable), the fact remains that Mr. Martin's time for filing a direct appeal had expired on June 18, 2004. The Blakely decision was not rendered until June 24, 2004. It was not until the decision in <u>United States v. Booker</u>, 125 S. Ct. 738 (2005) in January 2005 that federal guideline sentences were

affected by the earlier <u>Blakely</u> decision. Moreover, it is now clear that <u>Blakely</u> does not apply retroactively to sentences imposed before that decision was rendered. <u>See, e.g., Lloyd v. United States</u>, 407 F.3d 608 (3d Cir. 2005). There is thus absolutely no merit in the contention that Mr. Martin's trial attorney should have appealed on <u>Blakely</u> grounds in June 2004.

Finally, the <u>Blakely</u> and <u>Booker</u> decisions would not have aided Mr. Martin in any event. They merely preclude sentencing judges from enhancing sentences on the basis of facts which have not been either found by a jury or admitted by the defendant. In this case, the defendant admitted, under oath and in open court, all of the facts which increased the guideline range.

For all of these reasons, the defendant's motion for relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 will be denied.

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<u>ORDER</u>

AND NOW, this 23rd day of June 2005, IT IS ORDERED:

That the defendant, Edward Martin's, motion for habeas

corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is DENIED.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ John P. Fullam
John P. Fullam, Sr. J.